

REMARKS

Formal Matters

Claims 5 and 6 are pending after entry of the amendments set forth herein.

Claims 1-4 are canceled without prejudice to renewal.

Claim 5 was in a non-elected claim group following a restriction requirement in the parent case (U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/353,125).

New claim 6 is added. Support for new claim 6 is found in the specification at page 4, lines 24-28. Accordingly, no new matter is added.

The specification is amended to add the continuing data; and to add minor corrections made in the parent case, in particular to provide reference to Figure 1.

Figure 1 is provided herewith. Figure 1 was presented in the parent case, and was admitted therein. Figure 1 finds support in the specification at, e.g., page 4, lines 3-12. Accordingly, no new matter is added.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached is captioned "**VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE.**"

Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments to the specification and claims noted above.

CONCLUSION

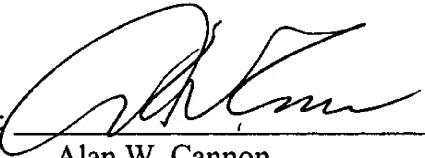
Applicants submit that all of the claims are in condition for allowance, which action is requested. If the Examiner finds that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extensions of time, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0815, order number AERX070DIV.

Respectfully submitted,
BOZICEVIC, FIELD & FRANCIS LLP

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By


Alan W. Cannon
Registration No. 34,977

BOZICEVIC, FIELD & FRANCIS LLP
200 Middlefield Road, Suite 200
Menlo Park, CA 94025
Telephone: (650) 327-3400
Facsimile: (650) 327-3231

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION

The paragraph beginning on page 4, line 3, of the specification was amended as follows:

(Amended) The instant invention addresses this problem in a method exemplified in Figure 1 which comprises providing a laminated material comprising first and second layers, said first and second layers having different coefficients of thermal expansion, said first layer **10** having within it a hole **11**, wherein a target region **21** of said second layer **20** in said laminated material is not laminated to said first layer but is surrounded entirely by laminated regions wherein the first layer is laminated to the second layer; providing a laser source **30** producing energy (indicated by arrow 31) of a wavelength and a power level that can ablate material from said first layer; changing the temperature of the laminated material so as to place said target region under tension; and directing said laser source onto said target region and ablating a portion thereof. The coefficient of thermal expansion of the first laminate layer may be greater or less than that of the second laminate layer.